

Sometimes There are No Do Overs

Today's Decisions Can Have Legal and Long-Term Consequences
(Day, Date, and Time)

Courtroom # _____. _____ Floor of the _____ Courthouse.

Judge _____, Presiding

In Advance: Close Up selects four teachers to be the attorneys – two for the plaintiff and two for the defense. Close Up also selects the teacher witnesses (see script). ***The judge, the adult attorneys, the teacher attorneys, and witnesses are the only ones who receive the script in advance.***

Address: **Please use the Third Street Entrance of the DC Federal Courthouse.** It is the new William B. Bryant Courthouse Annex. Courtroom 24-A. Fourth Floor. Judge _____'s Courtroom. The main entrance is 333 Constitution Avenue. Please do not use this entrance. The Third Street Entrance provides much easier access and Security will be expecting you there.

Note: The scenario centers on a high school driver who may have been texting while driving on a federal parkway and had an accident that put a friend, from another state, in the hospital. It is an example of how a seemingly harmless action "that everybody does" can have long-term consequences. All teachers, who aren't lawyers or witnesses, serve on 12-person juries. Every teacher participates.

In the Courtroom

2:45 p.m. In Judge _____'s Courtroom, the two teacher attorneys are seated at the counsel tables with two real attorneys. The defendant also sits at the counsel table. Witnesses sit in the front row of the gallery.

While waiting for the program to begin, the other teachers fill out the quiz *Sometimes, There are No Do-Overs*, a pre-test for the follow-up discussion after the mock trial. The focus is on decisions teachers make today that can have legal and/or lifelong consequences.

3:00 p.m. Judge _____ takes the bench. The real attorneys make their opening statements.

3:05 p.m. The teacher attorneys and teacher witnesses role play their parts.

3:25 p.m. Break for all participants. The teacher attorneys prepare their closing arguments with the real attorneys.

(over)

- 3:35 p.m. Teachers return and teacher attorneys deliver their closing arguments. Plaintiff first. Defense second. No Plaintiff rebuttal.
- 3:45 p.m. After the closing arguments, teachers report to their deliberation rooms, depending on the size of the group. First order of business: select a foreperson who will mark the verdict form and announce the verdict in the courtroom.
- 4:00 p.m. Teachers come back to order and each jury foreperson announces a verdict. The Judge asks juries how they arrived at their respective verdicts. The Judge and attorneys lead a debriefing of the mock trial and jury deliberations.
- 4:15 p.m. Probation officers comment on questions teachers raise, based on the *Sometimes, There are No Do-Overs* quiz. When finished, teachers have informal time with the Judge, probation officers, and attorneys.
- 4:45 p.m. Informal conversation time with the Judge, attorneys, and probation officers.
- 5:00 p.m. Program adjourns.

